

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A communications apparatus, comprising:
at least two conductors or fibers, wherein a first conductor or fiber comprises a first color and a second conductor or fiber comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second conductors or fibers are a twisted pair in the communications apparatus.
3. The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first and second colors are used to identify the first and second conductor or fiber if they become untwisted.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first and second conductors or fibers are insulated.
6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the first color is located in the insulation for the first conductor or fiber, the second color is located in the insulation for the second conductor or fiber, or the first color is located in the insulation for the first conductor or fiber and the second color is located in the insulation for the second conductor or fiber.
7. The apparatus of claim 2, further including a second pair of conductors or fibers with one conductor or fiber comprising a third color and a second conductor or fiber comprising a fourth color having a lighter tint of the third color.

8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the entire length of insulation for the first conductor or fiber contains the first color.

9. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the entire length of insulation for the second conductor or fiber contains the second color.

10. A communications cable, comprising:
a jacket defining a core; and
at least two conductors within the core, wherein a first conductor comprises a first color and a second conductor comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.

11. The cable of claim 10, wherein the first and second conductors are a twisted pair in the cable.

12. The cable of claim 10, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.

13. The cable of claim 10, wherein the first color is located in an insulation for the first conductor, the second color is located in an insulation for the second conductor, or the first color is located in an insulation for the first conductor and the second color is located in an insulation for the second conductor.

14. The cable of claim 13, wherein the entire length of insulation for the first conductor contains the first color.

15. The cable of claim 13, wherein the entire length of insulation for the second conductor contains the second color.

16. A cable, comprising:

a jacket defining a core; and

a plurality of insulated conductors within the core, wherein the insulation of the first conductor comprises a first color and the insulation of second conductor comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.

17. The cable of claim 16, wherein the first and second conductors are a twisted pair in the cable.

18. The cable of claim 16, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.

19. A communications system, comprising:

a first and second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains at least two conductors or fibers and wherein a first conductor or fiber in the first group comprises a first color and a second conductor or fiber in the first group comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.

20. A communications system comprising:

a cable having at least two conductors or fibers, wherein a first conductor or fiber comprises a first color and a second conductor or fiber comprises a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and

a connector having at least two terminals, wherein a first terminal is identified by the first color and the second terminal is identified by the second color.

21. A method of making a communications apparatus, comprising:

providing a first conductor or fiber and second conductor or fiber; and

providing the first conductor or fiber with a first color and a second conductor or fiber with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color.

22. The method of claim 21, including providing the first and second conductors or fibers with a first insulation and a second insulation, respectively.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the material for the first and second insulation is a polymeric resin mixture and the first and second insulation is provided on the first and second conductors or fibers by an extrusion process.

24. The method of claim 23, including providing the first insulation with the first color and the second insulation with a second color.

25. The method of claim 24, including providing the first insulation with the first color by mixing the material for the insulation with a dye or pigment and including providing the second insulation with the second color by mixing the material for the insulation with a dye or pigment.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second conductors or fibers are a twisted pair in the cable.

27. The method of claim 21, wherein the difference between the first and second colors can be distinguished by the naked eye.

28. A method of making a cable, comprising:
 providing a first insulated conductor and second insulated conductor;
 providing the first insulated conductor with a first color and a second insulated conductor with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and
 providing a jacket over the first and second conductor.

29. The method of claim 28, including providing the insulation for the first conductor with the first color and the insulation for the second conductor with a second color.

30. A method for making a cable system, comprising:
providing a first group of cables and second group of cables, wherein each group of cables contains a plurality of cables;
providing a first cable in the first group with a first color and a second cable in the first group with a second color having a lighter tint of the first color; and
providing a jacket over the first and second group of cables.

31. A method of for identifying conductors within a cable, the method comprising providing a first conductor or fiber with a first color and a second conductor or fiber with a lighter tint of the first color.